

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV. K.

From: Mark K. Nolan, Transportation Planner

Action ☒

Date: November 4, 2013

Discussion ☐

Subject: Traffic Safety Report Dated October 8, 2013

Information ☐

Action Requested:

Review and approve the Traffic Safety Committee Report of October 8, 2013.

Information / Background:

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the October 8, 2013, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their October 24 meeting and moved to forward the report to the City Council for approval, see attached draft minutes.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Committee Report of October 8, 2013
Draft ETC Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2013

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

The Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) review of traffic safety matters occurred on October 8. The Director of Engineering, Public Works Director, Transportation Planner, Police Traffic Supervisor and Sign Coordinator were in attendance for this meeting.

From these reviews, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the October 24 Edina Transportation Commission and the November 19 City Council agenda.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval:

A1. Request for peak-hour parking restrictions at W 56th Street and Doncaster Way.

This request comes from a resident who lives in the area and whose children attend Highlands School. Requestor states that the curve at the intersection of W 56th Street and Doncaster Way is very congested during school pick-up and drop-off hours, because parking is allowed on both sides of the roadway and there is a great deal of school bus and vehicle traffic during those times.

Requestor would like parking restrictions in and near the curved intersection during the hours of 8am-10am and 3pm-4pm. Pavement width north of the curve is 28', within the curve 33', and west of the curve 28.5'.

Staff recommends approval of No Parking (8:00-4:30 on School Days) signage on the outside of the curve at the intersection of W 56th St and Doncaster Way.



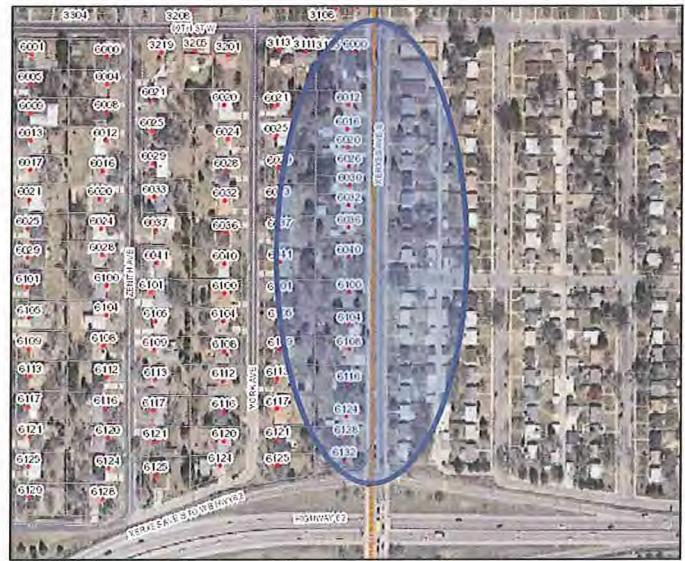
Map: W 56th Street and Doncaster Way



Photo: W 56th Street and Doncaster Way looking south

A2. Hennepin County Request for “No Parking” signs on the 6000 and 6100 block of Xerxes Avenue.

In 2014 Hennepin County will be doing a mill-and-overlay of Xerxes Avenue South from approximately 54th St W to the Crosstown Highway. As part of this project the County is currently planning on constructing curb extensions (or “bumpouts”) at four locations on the west side of Xerxes Ave (6000, 6026, 6040/6100 and 6116). This will delineate one southbound lane of traffic until a point 170’ north of the Crosstown where a right-hand turn lane will be striped. The County is requesting that “No Parking” signs be placed at this location to provide for the turn lane, as well as at the curb extension locations.



Map: 6100 block of Xerxes Avenue

Staff recommends approval of No Parking signs at 6124, 6128 and 6132 Xerxes Avenue and at curb extension locations at 6000, 6026, 6040/6100 and 6116 Xerxes Avenue.

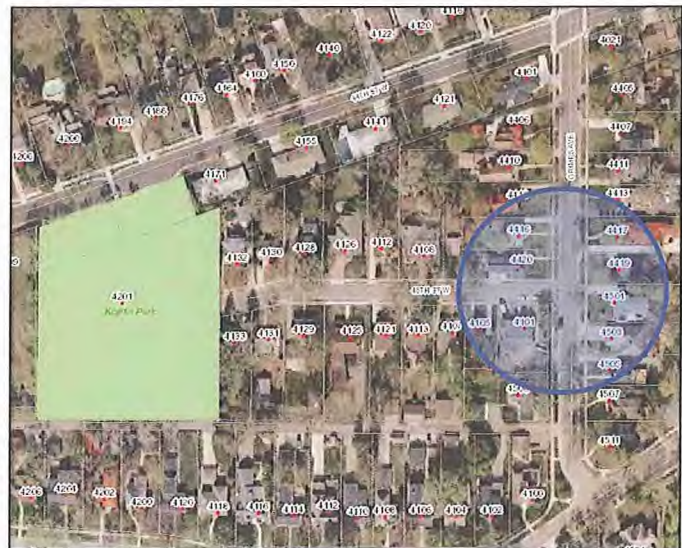
SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial:

B1. Request for a painted crosswalk at the intersection of Grimes Avenue and 45th Street West.

This request is from a resident who lives at the intersection. The requestor states that it is difficult and unsafe for pedestrians to cross Grimes Avenue at 45th Street, noting that “four or five” school buses stop there. Requestor would like to see a marked crosswalk at the intersection across Grimes Avenue to increase the safety of pedestrians in the area.

There is no relevant history of traffic requests in this area. There are no reported crashes at this intersection. A map and photos are provided below.



Map: Grimes Avenue & 45th Street West

The criterion for placement of crosswalks and type of control is outlined within the City of Edina Local Traffic Control list. It states:

Marked Pedestrian Crosswalk

- *Marked crosswalks are placed at locations that are unusually hazardous or at locations not readily apparent as having pedestrian movement.*
- *Marked crosswalks will only be placed in an area that has in excess of 20 pedestrians crossing for a minimum of two hours during any eight hour period.*
- *Marking for crosswalks will be established by measuring the "Vehicle Gap Time". This is the total number of gaps between vehicular traffic recorded during the average five minute period in the peak hour. Criteria for markings are:*
 - *More than five gaps – pavement marking and signage only.*
 - *Four to five gaps – add activated pedestal mounted flasher.*
 - *Less than three gaps – add activated overhead mounted flasher*



Photo: Grimes Avenue and 45th Street looking northwest

Counts of pedestrians were taken at the intersection. A maximum total of 15 pedestrians were recorded crossing Grimes Ave at the intersection within a two-hour period. This is below the warrants for placing a crosswalk.

Staff recommends denial of request for painted pedestrian crosswalk.

B2. Request for parking restrictions at the end of 53rd Street West.

This request comes from a resident who lives on 53rd Street West. The resident previously submitted a request for parking restrictions in front of his residence (see Traffic Safety Committee Report dated 9/4/13). As a result, two no parking signs were placed in front of the residence (on the north side of W 53rd St).



Map: 53rd Street West

Requestor now states that vehicles continue to turn around in the driveway and block the driveway. Requestor also states that vehicles park on the south side of W 53rd St (both in the street and on the grass) and it is difficult to pull out of his driveway as a result. Additionally, construction and maintenance vehicles park in that location in the overnight hours, resulting in vehicle noise. Requestor would like to see parking restrictions on the south side of W 53rd St, west of Grandview Ln. A map and picture are provided below.

Staff recommends denial of request for parking restrictions.



Photo: 53rd Street West, looking west

SECTION C:

Requests that are deferred to a later date:

C1. Request for a painted crosswalk at the intersection of Xerxes Avenue South and 54th Street West.

This request is from a resident who lives in the southwest quadrant of the intersection. The requestor states that vehicles are not stopping for pedestrians crossing Xerxes Avenue at 54th Street. Requestor would like to see some traffic control or marked crosswalk at the intersection to increase the safety of pedestrians in the area.

There is no relevant history of traffic requests in this area. There are no reported crashes at this intersection. A map and photos are provided below.

The criterion for placement of crosswalks and type of control is outlined within the City of Edina Local Traffic Control list. It states:



Map: Xerxes Avenue South & 54th Street West

Marked Pedestrian Crosswalk

- *Marked crosswalks are placed at locations that are unusually hazardous or at locations not readily apparent as having pedestrian movement.*
- *Marked crosswalks will only be placed in an area that has in excess of 20 pedestrians crossing for a minimum of two hours during any eight hour period.*
- *Marking for crosswalks will be established by measuring the "Vehicle Gap Time". This is the total number of gaps between vehicular traffic recorded during the average five minute period in the peak hour. Criteria for markings:*
 - *More than five gaps – pavement marking and signage only.*
 - *Four to five gaps – add activated pedestal mounted flasher.*
 - *Less than three gaps – add activated overhead mounted flasher*

Counts of pedestrians were taken at the intersection. A maximum total of 12 pedestrians were recorded crossing Xerxes Avenue at the intersection within a two-hour period. This is below the warrants for placing a crosswalk.

After discussion, staff recommends deferring decision until next year to allow for additional analysis of approved crosswalk at 55th Street West and Xerxes Avenue (one block south), pending approval from Hennepin County (see Traffic Safety Committee Report dated 8/7/2013).

C2. Request for "No Bicycling" or "Please Walk Your Bike" signage in the 50th and France business district.

This request comes from a bicycling supporter who states that families and children riding on sidewalks in the 50th and France business district may not be safe, given the zero-lot



Photo: 54th Street and Xerxes Avenue looking north



Photo: 54th Street and Xerxes Avenue looking west



Map: 50th and France business district

lines and retail activities located there. Requestor cited a child riding a bike into an opening restaurant door, resulting in injury.

Requestor would like signage in the area to prevent bicycle riding on the sidewalks.

After discussion, staff recommends deferring decision one month to allow staff to research potential sign types and locations.



Map: 50th St and France Ave looking north

C3. Request for parking restrictions in front of 4215-4219 Grimes Avenue.

This request comes from a resident who lives in the area and often travels through this section of Grimes Avenue. Requestor states that vehicles travelling northbound on Grimes have to swerve around vehicles parked on the east side of the street, potentially ending up in the southbound lane. Requestor states that this section of Grimes (4215-4219) is on a hill which could potentially block sightlines of vehicles.

Requestor would like parking restrictions on the east side of Grimes near these addresses. Currently there is no parking allowed on the west side of the street. Pavement at this location is 25.5' (face to face).

After discussion, staff concluded that further exploration is needed to determine vertical sightline distance and existing traffic counts.



Map: 4200 block of Grimes Ave



Photo: 4213 Grimes Ave, looking south

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety-related issues handled.

- D1. Call from a resident regarding traffic backing up on Arcadia Avenue from the coffee shop drive-through in the Grandview area. Resident is concerned that this condition is a danger to motorists. The Director of Engineering will draft a letter to the business owner regarding mitigation.
- D2. Request for a curb extension at 5601 Tracy Avenue, similar to curb extensions south of the residence. Caller stated that vehicles are entering the parking and bicycle lanes to maneuver around vehicles and turn right onto Vernon Ave. Design consultant discussed this with the resident and her neighbor to the south, who agreed that the curb extension is needed. Bids are being requested to construct the curb extension this fall.
- D3. Call from a resident stating that sightlines are obstructed at the intersection of Hawkes Terrace and Hawkes Drive. Edina Police Department (EPD) visited the site and determined that there was a clear zone violation on the property at the northwest corner of the intersection. EPD sent a notice to the property owner.
- D4. Request for "No Idling" sign from a resident at View Lane and Vernon Avenue. Resident stated that vehicles – and in particular, school buses – are idling in front of her house, resulting in poor air quality and exacerbating her health condition. Edina School District was notified, who determined that one of their buses was idling at this location. The bus driver was notified not to do so.
- D5. Call from a resident regarding traffic levels on Tracy Avenue north of Highway 62. Resident is concerned that traffic will continue to increase, making it difficult for turning movements and potentially dangerous for pedestrians. Resident was told that the City continues to monitor traffic levels on Tracy Avenue and will consider traffic issues as the roadway is redesigned next year.
- D6. Request for parking restrictions on Hillside Road east of Tracy Avenue. Resident states that vehicles are parking on both sides of the street during baseball games at Countryside Park, making it difficult to navigate the roadway and pull into/out of driveways. Request was forwarded to EDP, who installed temporary No Parking signs on the north side of the roadway, between Tracy Ave and Crescent Dr.
- D7. Request from a resident for existing ADT and speed data near the intersection of Glengarry Parkway and Ayrshire Blvd. A voicemail was left with the resident with this data. No return call was received.
- D8. Call from a business owner in the 5100 block of Industrial Boulevard (near its intersection with Metro Blvd). Business owner requests that the curve in that area be striped for a single lane, and cited a recent instance where a motorist was "forced" off of the road in the curve by another motorist. This issue was addressed in the September Traffic Safety Committee Report, where it was determined to install signs at both ends of the single-lane stretch of Industrial Blvd to indicate correct lane usage. A voicemail was left with the business owner describing this. No return call has been received.
- D9. Call from a resident stating that sightlines are obstructed at the intersection of 56th Street and France Avenue. Specifically, the resident stated that pedestrians on the sidewalk on the west side of France Avenue are difficult to see by motorists traveling eastbound on 56th Street. Edina Police Department (EPD) visited the site and determined that there was a clear zone violation on the property at the southwest corner of the intersection. EPD sent a notice to the property owner (building at that location is currently vacant).

- D10. Call from Edina Public Schools requesting City approval for a crosswalk to be installed at the Edina Community Center/Kuhlman Field parking lot entrance at 5701 Normandale Blvd. Staff approves and will contact EPS to advise as to type and surface of crosswalk.
- D11. Call from a resident stating that sightlines are obstructed at the southeast corner of the intersection of Blake Road and Belmore Lane. Staff measured the height of the vegetation there at 40", which exceeds the maximum clear zone height of 30". Edina Police Department (EPD) will visit the site and contact the homeowner.

John Scheerer

From: Lynette Biunno on behalf of Edina Mail
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:05 AM
To: John Scheerer
Subject: FW: Contact Us form submission

Hi John,

Can you assist this person??



Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389

lbunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: janewberg@msn.com [<mailto:janewberg@msn.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:28 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Contact Us form submission

Name: Jeffrey Newberg

Organization:

Website:

Address_1:

Address_2:

City:

State:

Zip_Code:

Email: janewberg@msn.com

Phone: 952-927-8918

Referrer:

Message: Please advise as to whom I should contact about a complaint regarding the maintenance of the alley directly behind our residence in Edina. Thank you

Discussion

Member Nathan asked if options were looked at for the power lines. Mr. Muse said they would need to be moved which would cause delays and impacts to trees. He asked if the City looked at burying the lines and director Houle said cost would be approximately \$1/2M that state aid would not cover and would likely then be assessed to residents. He said it is most likely that Xcel Energy would pay the relocation cost.

Member LaForce asked if the city has any jurisdiction over the creek and Mr. Muse said the City is working with the watershed district but he is not certain about jurisdiction. Director Houle said the watershed district has funding for shoreline improvements and also mainline improvements. Member Whited asked about water quality improvements and Mr. Muse said this will be addressed as they are working with the watershed district and also they need to meet minimum state aid requirements.

Member Janovy said she struggles with the level of engineering detail that is provided in understanding or being able to tell exactly where the road widths changes. She said one concern that people have is speeding and the data provided is better than they see on other streets. She asked how does 14 ft. lane addresses the concern of speeding and Mr. Muse said 14 ft. is the minimum width for a shared lane and director Houle added that not having the centerline, drivers tend to drive more cautiously, similar to W. 44th. Member Janovy said it looks like W. 44th is functioning but they need data and she's asked for it twice.

Traffic Safety Committee Report of October 8, 2013

A.1. Chair Nelson asked if the school was contacted and transportation planner Nolan said the school was not contacted.

A.2 Member Janovy said it looks like there is transit bus stop by the bump-out – this has been corrected. Chair Nelson asked if the 'no parking' is going to be only at those locations where the bump-outs are and then 170 ft. north of the crosstown ramps – yes. Member Franzen said the bump-outs could be larger and more aesthetically-pleasing and still have enough parking – this is temporary for the winter said director Houle.

B.1. Member Franzen asked how pedestrians are counted and transportation planner Nolan said it is done electronically. Member Janovy said she understands why the crosswalk was denied but believes the NEETS called for crosswalk at Sunnyside and Grimes. Additionally, she said there are two curb cuts that do not align with the intersection and she has almost been hit there and something needs to be done.

C. 1. Member Whited said this area is a natural path for crossing that she uses and the number seems low to her. She asked if these types of counts could be done on the weekends and transportation planner Nolan said yes.

C.2. Member Bass said she understands where the requestor is coming from because she has almost been hit by bicyclists in the 50th & France area. She said there is a parking issue and they do not want to discourage people from taking other modes. She said there are no facilities for biking. She said they should be careful in the language they use and also ask Council to consider potential remedies for addressing the need for better bicycle facilities in the area. She said this highlights the potential conflicts when there isn't a good system for all the modes. Member Janovy agreed and said she sent a photo of pavement inset sign to transportation planner Nolan.

D.2. Member Janovy asked what the bump-out will look like and was told that it is already built.

Motion was made by member Spanhake and seconded by member Franzen to forward the October 8 Traffic Safety Report to City Council. All voted aye. Motion carried.